



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 04, 2018

The Honorable Ash Kalra
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 3200** (Kalra) - as Amended April 12, 2018 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Kalra:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 3200 which would reinstate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to the State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (SSP) and index the maximum aid payment for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/SSP to the federal poverty level (FPL).

For decades, California periodically provided an SSI/SSP COLA until it was repealed in 2009. Since 2009, the state-funded SSP portion of grants to individuals has been cut from \$233 a month to the federal minimum of \$156 a month, and for couples from \$568 to \$396. Grant cuts and the COLA repeal have put recipients at a greater risk of homelessness and hunger which lead to poor health. SSI/SSP recipients increasingly rely on expensive public safety, medical and nursing home services that may not be needed if grants covered basic needs.

Current SSI/SSP grants for single Californians are \$910.72 per month, only 90% of the FPL. The grants are inadequate for a person to live on, especially given California's high cost of living, and are significantly less than the actual income level needed for self-sufficiency. A restoration of the SSP grant amount will help protect these vulnerable populations, and more importantly, provide them with the right to live with dignity, not in poverty.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 3200. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Lovingood".

Robert A. Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation
San Bernardino County In Home Supportive Services Advisory Committee

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